



Nevada Department of Education Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Annual Report 2020

July 31, 2019 – July 31, 2020

Pursuant to [NRS 385.635\(2\)](#), the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE Office) shall prepare a report, on or before August 1 of each year, which includes:

- a summary of the status of the progress made by the school districts and public schools in effectively involving parents and families in the education of their children;
- an identification of any areas where further improvement is needed; and
- the activities of the Office during the immediately preceding school year, including the progress made by the Office, in consultation with the Advisory Council for Family Engagement (Council), in assisting the school districts and public schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children.

Pursuant to [NRS 385.635\(3\)\(b\)](#), the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) shall post the report prepared by the Office on its [website](#).

Report on Office Duties Pursuant to NRS 385.635

[NRS 385.635\(a\)](#)

Review and evaluate the programs implemented by the school districts and public schools, including, without limitation, programs which are supported in part with money received from the Federal Government, for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in the public schools. The review and evaluation must include an identification of current strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- In July 2019, NDE released its [request for qualification \(RFQ\) application](#) to expand the number of providers on its [Evidence-Based Interventions for School Transformation List \(List\)](#). The *List* is a non-exhaustive list of providers who have been evaluated by researchers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and determined to meet the evidence-based level criteria defined by The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The *List* aims to recognize evidence-based interventions that directly support schools and/or districts through professional development, training, or coaching. The areas of interest of NDE include, but are not limited to:
 - Early Learning;
 - Equity;
 - *Family Engagement*;

- Homeless and/or Foster Care for Youth;
- Literacy;
- Mentoring;
- Neglected and/or Delinquent Youth;
- School Improvement;
- School Leadership Continuum;
- School Safety and Climate;
- Social Emotional Learning;
- STEAM;
- Strategic Use of Human Capital; and
- Teacher Recruitment, Induction, Mentoring, and Retention.

Schools and districts can use eligible Federal and State funds for providers on the *List*. The PIFE Office collaborated with the Office of Student and School Supports (OSSS) to encourage family engagement program providers to submit RFQs. Two family engagement organizations and their programs (Communities in Schools and Parent-Teacher Home Visits) successfully submitted applications and are included on the newly expanded [List](#). Overall, there are ten providers with family engagement as a subcategory intervention on the *List*. The PIFE Office and OSSS will continue to seek and expand the number of family engagement providers on the *List*.

- In spring 2020, the PIFE Office served on the review team for a federal charter school grant application managed by NDE. Part of the grant application required applicants to detail their family engagement outreach and school plan. The PIFE Office’s role was to ensure applicants who were approved aligned with family engagement best practices and programs.
- The PIFE Office, in collaboration with the Council, reviewed Nye County School District’s family engagement policy. Family engagement policies are required by districts who receive Title I funding under ESSA, Section 1116. Schools and districts may use Title I funds for family engagement programs and practices. Moving forward, the PIFE Office and Council will review the remaining districts’ family engagement policies on a cyclical basis. The Council has not met since March 2020 due to the current health pandemic and its impact on publicly held meetings.
- The PIFE Office participates in weekly meetings with the Clark County School District (Clark CSD), the Washoe County School District (WCSD), and the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) regarding their Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools under ESSA. CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools are eligible for additional federal funds. The PIFE provides technical assistance regarding family engagement best practices and programs.

[NRS 385.635\(b\)](#)

Develop a list of practices which have been proven effective in increasing the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children, including, without limitation, practices that increase the ability of school districts and public schools to effectively reengage parents and families and provide those parents and families with the skills and resources necessary to support the academic achievement of their children.

- Through ongoing dialogue; presentations from districts, schools, community-based organizations, and national organizations; and participation in forums, seminars, and conferences, the PIFE Office and Council have identified the following practices, when implemented correctly, as being high impact and effective in increasing the engagement of families in the education of their children:
 - [Academic Parent-Teacher Teams](#)
 - [Best Practices in Engaging Diverse Families](#)
 - [Dual Capacity-Building Framework](#)
 - Integrated Student Supports Model
 - Example: [Communities in Schools \(Research\)](#)
 - [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#)
 - [Panorama Education](#)
 - [Parent Teacher Home Visits \(Research\)](#)
 - [Promising Partnership Practices](#)
 - [Strategies for Community Engagement in School Turnaround](#)
 - [Strategies for Equitable Family Engagement](#)

- In spring 2018, NDE partnered with the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement with 12 other states. One of the goals of the State Consortium was for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. Based on stakeholder feedback, Nevada's framework will align with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It will also include a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies. Schools and districts will be able to use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies. Nevada's framework is due to be released August 2020.

[NRS 385.635\(c\)](#)

Work in cooperation with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs in carrying out the duties of the Office, including, without limitation, the establishment of a statewide training program concerning parental involvement and family engagement required pursuant to [NRS 391A.135](#).

- During fall of 2018, the Office collaborated with the Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDP) to develop a statewide parental involvement and family engagement training program that is aligned with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in 2015 as a part of Nevada's Policy on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement.

- The PIFE Office also consistently collaborates with the RPDPs in various stakeholder engagement initiatives. Representatives from the RPDPs have assisted the PIFE Office in its family engagement framework development and its family engagement summit planning. The RPDPs are a valued partner in carrying out the duties of the PIFE Office.

[NRS 385.635\(d\)](#)

Provide information to the school districts and public schools on the availability of competitive grants for programs which offer:

- (1) Professional development for educational personnel on practices to reengage disengaged parents and families in the education of their children;
- (2) Training for parents and families in skills of leadership and volunteerism;
- (3) Family literacy training;
- (4) Home visitation programs to encourage the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children; and
- (5) Other innovative programs that are designed to increase the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the academic achievement of their children.

- The PIFE Office consistently searches for grant opportunities related to family engagement to inform school districts and public schools of their availability. Grant opportunities are shared during bi-monthly webinars, email, newsletters, and NDE Updates.
- The PIFE Office also provides links to grant information websites and agencies on its [webpage](#). Schools and districts have access to these links throughout the year.

[NRS 385.635\(e\)](#)

Provide support to those school districts which have established an advisory council on parental involvement and family engagement pursuant to [NRS 385.625](#) and encourage those school districts which have not established such an advisory council to consider creating an advisory council for the school district.

- The following school districts have established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement:
 - Carson City – Family Life Advisory Council
 - Clark – Trustee Parent Advisory Councils (7)
 - Douglas – Parent Advisory Committee
 - Humboldt – Parent Advisory Panels (2)
 - Lincoln – Parent Advisory Councils (9 – each school has a PAC)
 - Lyon – Site Parent Advisory Councils (17), Area PACs (5), and District PAC (1)
 - Washoe – Council on Family Engagement

The PIFE Office will encourage school districts that have not yet established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement to establish a council. Interested districts will be connected with PIFE District Liaisons to determine the feasibility of establishing an advisory council in their district. The PIFE Office will continue to familiarize itself with Open Meeting Law to aide school districts in maximizing family and community engagement during council meetings.

[NRS 385.635\(f\)](#)

Build the capacity of public schools to work in collaboration with parents to establish policies for the involvement of parents and the engagement of families, including, without limitation, policies that focus on partnerships between public schools and the parents and families of children enrolled in public schools and the empowerment of parents and families in support of the education of their children.

- The PIFE Office, in collaboration with the Council, reviewed Nye County School District’s family engagement policy. Family engagement policies are required by districts who receive Title I funding under ESSA, Section 1116. Schools and districts may use Title I funds for family engagement programs and practices. Moving forward, the PIFE Office and Council will review the remaining districts’ family engagement policies on a cyclical basis. The Council has not met since March 2020 due to the current health pandemic and its impact on publicly held meetings.
- In spring 2018, NDE partnered with the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement with 12 other states. One of the goals of the State Consortium was for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. Based on stakeholder feedback, Nevada’s framework will align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It will also include a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies. Schools and districts will be able to use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies. Nevada’s framework is due to be released August 2020.
- In July 2019, the Office released an update of its [Title I, Section 1116 family engagement handbook](#). The handbook is a resource Title I schools and districts can use to help meet the federal requirements under Title I, Section 1116 while still implementing best practice. The handbook provides resources for schools and districts to assist in the creation of their district family engagement policies, school family engagement policies, and school-parent compacts. The handbook will be updated annually to best meet the needs of schools and districts.
- In April 2020, the PIFE Office collaborated with OSSS’ Read By Grade 3 (RBG3) team to co-present a webinar for RBG3 literacy specialists on a summer learning plan with a family engagement focus.
- In August 2020, the PIFE Office collaborated with Nevada’s SEAD Center to present a workshop to school administrators. The session “Family Engagement and SEL Critical Practices While Reopening Schools” focused on how to bring together educators, students, families, and community partners to co-create transformative learning experiences that cultivate and build the SEL and family engagement competencies needed to contribute to a caring, thriving, and just society.
- In July 2020, the PIFE Office collaborated with NDE’s McKinney-Vento representative to provide district McKinney-Vento liaisons with guidance on family engagement best practices.
- The PIFE Office participates in weekly meetings with the Clark CSD, WCSD, and the SPCSA regarding their CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools under ESSA. CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools are eligible for additional

federal funds. The PIFE provides technical assistance regarding family engagement best practices and programs.

- The State Board of Education adopted the Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy on September 3, 2015. The Office provides an overview of the Policy and consistently references the Policy during its PIFE webinars and when meeting with administrators and District PIFE Liaisons so they too can use it as a guide for their family engagement initiatives and policies.
- The Dual Capacity-Building Framework is a framework the Office uses as a guide for its work. The Office provides an overview of the framework and consistently references the framework during its webinars and when meeting with administrators and District PIFE Liaisons so they too can use it as a guide for their family engagement initiatives and policies.

[NRS 385.635\(g\)](#)

Work in cooperation with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education in developing the regulations required by paragraph (k) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and monitoring the implementation of those regulations.

- Pursuant to NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045, effective July 2015, initial licensees require at least three semester hours of coursework related to parental involvement and family engagement that are consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement set forth in NRS 392.457 and includes an emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families, and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse backgrounds. Initial licensees have three years to remove the provision from their license.
- The PIFE Office, in collaboration with the Office of Educator Licensure (OEL), created a system for reviewing Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) courses to ensure they meet the requirements set forth in NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045. Courses that are determined to satisfy the licensure requirement can be found on the Office's [webpage](#). Additionally, the Office and the OEL are working to improve the webpage's ease of use for educators who are interested in knowing more about the licensure requirement, the courses that satisfy the requirement, and how to contact each IHE institution about a course offering.
- In spring of 2020, the PIFE Office and OEL submitted regulations to allow for an NDE-approved professional development equivalent to count towards satisfying the licensure requirement. This will allow for greater accessibility and an elimination of a barrier for educators seeking to satisfy the licensure requirement. Currently the regulation is awaiting approval from the Legislative Commission.
- In May 2020, the Office participated in a national [panel](#) regarding its PIFE Course. The reason for the panel was to highlight the pre-service parental involvement and family engagement licensure requirement for all initial licensees in Nevada. Many states see Nevada as a leader in the field when it comes to family engagement, which includes its pre-service learning requirement.

[NRS 385.635\(h\)](#)

Establish, in collaboration with the State Board, guidelines to assist parents and families in helping their children achieve the standards of content and performance adopted by the State Board pursuant to [NRS 389.520](#).

- The State Board of Education adopted a [Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy](#) on September 3, 2015. This policy was drafted by the Council with support from the NDE.

[NRS 385.635\(i\)](#)

Collaborate with the Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center, the Parent Training and Information Centers, the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, the Advisory Council and the teachers who are trained to serve as liaisons to parents and legal guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools to plan and implement a statewide summit on parental involvement and family engagement, which must be held at least biennially. After each summit, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement shall evaluate the success of the summit in consultation with the entities identified in this paragraph.

- The PIFE Office and the Summit Planning Team meet monthly in preparation for the 2020 all-virtual family engagement summit. The summit is planned to be an all-virtual event due to the current public health pandemic.

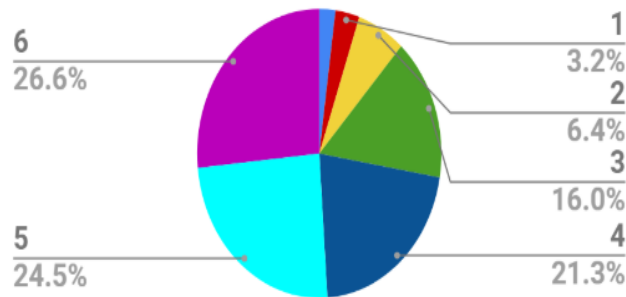
[NRS 385.635\(j\)](#)

Assist each school district and the public schools within the school district with incorporating strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement into the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by the public schools pursuant to [NRS 385A.650](#).

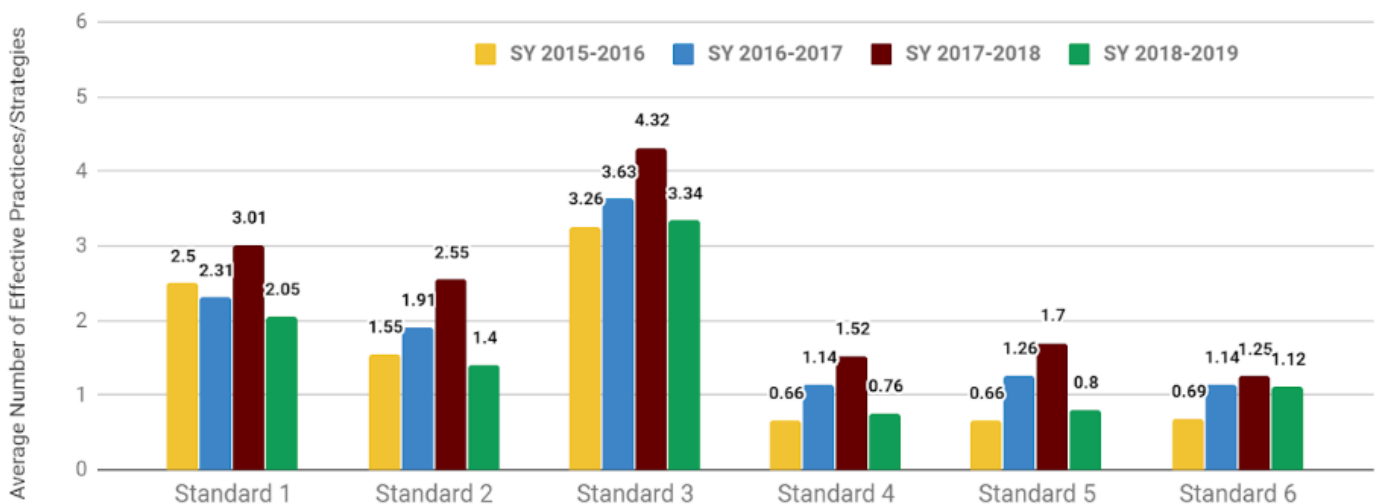
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- The Office conducts bi-monthly webinars with District PIFE Liaisons to provide NDE, Office, and Legislative updates; professional development on topics of interest; grant opportunities; and resources. The Office encourages districts and schools to embed and integrate effective family engagement practices and strategies into their overall school and district plans. Recently, the Office has opened up the webinar to other district personnel who are interested in building their capacity in family engagement.
- The Office review SPPs from previously identified Rising Stars schools in Nevada. Upon review, it was determined that 27% of Rising Stars schools were using practices and strategies in all six of the Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. That is a decrease of 31 percentage points compared to the previous school year. The breakdown of family engagement standards is below.

Total Number of Observed Family Engagement Standards



Average Number of Observed Effective Family Engagement Practices and Strategies per Family Engagement Standard



The Office concluded that its current evaluation process of SPPs is limited by what schools include in their plans, which often is not all inclusive of what a school does and institutes overall. Despite the dip in progress compared to the previous year, there is a notable trend. Schools have a more difficult time in finding and using strategies within Standards 4, 5, and 6. The Office will work with the Council and District PIFE Liaisons to provide greater support (practices and strategies) within these specific standards.

- The Office and OSSS have agreed to collaborate when the SPP template is reformatted to ensure schools embed and integrate family engagement practices and strategies into their overall school plan.

[NRS 385.635\(k\)\(1\)](#)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability prepared by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to [NRS 385A.070](#) relating to parental involvement and family engagement in the school districts and public schools;

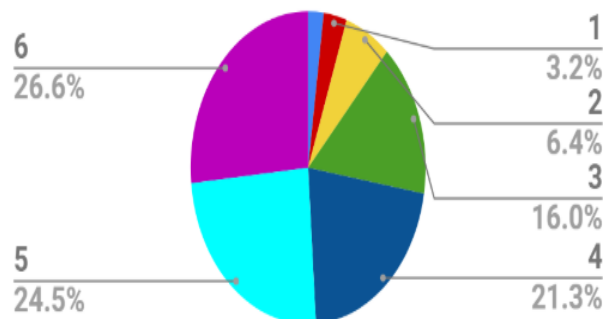
- The Office collaborates with the Council to review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability of each district by requesting each district present to the Council at least once every three years their family engagement policy, programs, and initiatives.

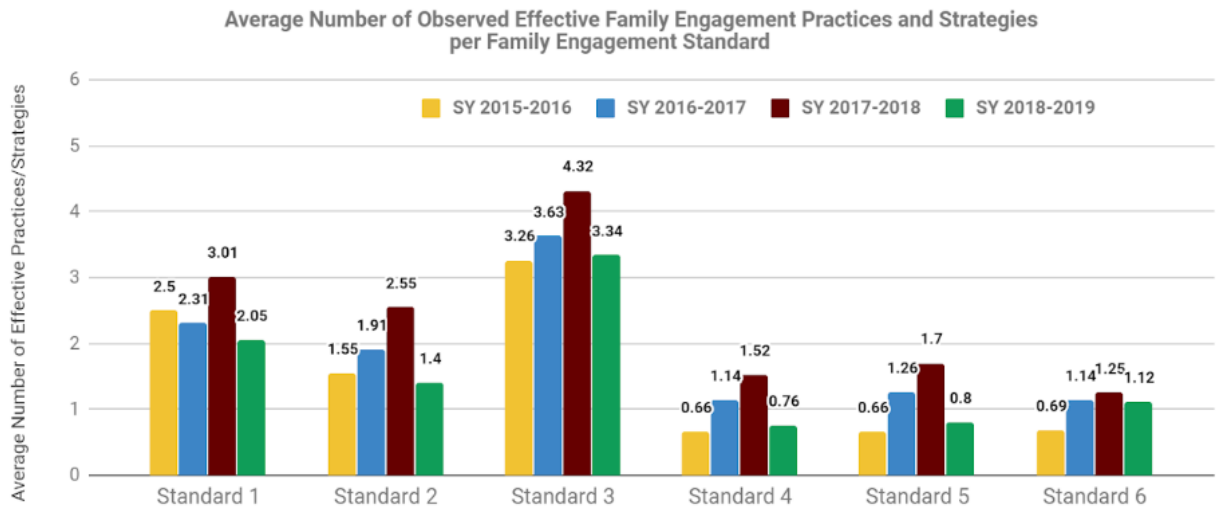
[NRS 385.635\(k\)\(2\)](#)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to review and evaluate the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by each public school pursuant to [NRS 385A.650](#) relating to the strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement incorporated into the plans; and

- The Office review SPPs from previously identified Rising Stars schools in Nevada. Upon review, it was determined that 27% of Rising Stars schools were using practices and strategies in all six of the Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. That is a decrease of 31 percentage points compared to the previous school year. The breakdown of family engagement standards is below.

Total Number of Observed Family Engagement Standards





The PIFE Office concluded that its current evaluation process of SPPs is limited by what schools include in their plans, which often is not all inclusive of what a school does and institutes overall. Despite the dip in progress compared to the previous year, there is a notable trend. Schools have a more difficult time in finding and using strategies within Standards 4, 5, and 6.

[NRS 385.635\(k\)\(3\)](#)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council review the status of the implementation of the provisions of this section and the effectiveness of the Office in carrying out the duties prescribed in this section.

- The Office was created in 2011 ([AB 224](#)) and staffed in 2012. Since its inception, it has worked closely with the Council to carry out its duties. The Council reviews the Office’s annual report every August to consider the necessity for the Office and its effectiveness in carrying out its duties prescribed in NRS. The Office’s work would not be possible without the assistance of the Council and vice versa. The Council and Office also work closely to:
 - prepare Council agendas and materials
 - ensure the Council is informed of state and national family engagement best practices and strategies
 - communicate family engagement best practices and strategies to District PIFE Liaisons and other school/district personnel
 - plan and implement the biennial statewide summit

[NRS385.635\(3\)\(a\)](#)

The Department shall post on its internet website the list of practices developed by the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1;

- The PIFE Office [webpage](#) has been organized to allow families, school and district staff easy access to many resources that promote effective family engagement strategies. The PIFE Office plans to reorganize its webpage based on feedback it received from NAFSCE.

[NRS 385.635\(3\)\(b\)](#)

The report prepared by the Office pursuant to subsection 2;

- Annual reports can be found [here](#). Older reports can also be requested at the link provided.

[NRS 385.635\(3\)\(c\)](#)

Any other information that the Office finds useful for the school districts, public schools, parents, families and general public relating to effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- The PIFE Office engages in ongoing dialogue with other State Education Authority (SEA) family engagement leaders to discuss family engagement resources and best practices. The group and its monthly calls are facilitated by Lacy Wood from the American Institute for Research. By participating in these monthly phone calls, the Office has the opportunity to connect with several states to learn how Nevada can increase the number of families engaged in their child's education. Information is shared with the Council during meetings and is uploaded on the [website](#).
- The PIFE Office played a role in the development of NDE's [Reopening Framework](#), advocating for families to be a part of the decision-making process.
- NDE received a review/assessment report from NAFSCE on NDE's family engagement efforts, which included recommendations on how to improve organizationally as a department family engagement wise. The PIFE Office has and will move forward with the recommendations provided.
- The PIFE Office created a network of NDE PIFE Liaisons. Each NDE office has a PIFE Liaison. The idea is to have a family engagement voice throughout NDE's work and to collaborate on future projects and initiatives.
- The PIFE Office collaborated with the Office of Standards and Instructional Support on its [READ Nevada](#) initiative. A statewide initiative to support reading for all students by providing access to myON digital literacy resources for grades PK-12, at no cost to students